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December 11, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Subject: Minutes of Meeting held 4 December 1946 re Co-ordinated Exploitation of Enemy Document Repositories.

1. The attached revised minutes are forwarded to you to replace those dated December 5, 1946 which were previously sent.
2. This revision is required due to the error made in the original minutes of referring to Captain Poehlmann as a member of the SWNCC Psychological Warfare Committee.
3. It is requested that the original minutes be destroyed.

[Redacted Signature]

Captain, USN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATING AND PLANNING STAFF

Minutes of the Meeting Held in Room 2178
The New War Department Building
On Thurs., 4 December 1946 at 1430

Coordinated Exploitation of Enemy Document
Repositories Relating to Political-Social-
Psychological Warfare

PRESENT

✓ Captain H. C. Murphy - ONI
Commander W. H. Packard - ONI
✓ Captain K. F. Poehlmann - CNO
[redacted] - CIG
Major W. L. Chan - WDC
✓ Lt. Colonel H. B. St. Clair - WDC
✓ Major R. G. Seeley - GMDS
✓ [redacted] - CIG
✓ Mr. S. E. Bradford - State
✓ Mr. F. G. Kilgour - State
✓ Colonel R. Taylor - AC/AS-2

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1. [] read the paper prepared by ONI (CIG 21) recommending the exploitation of captured foreign documents as a source of information on political-social-psychological warfare. He further read the appropriate parts of the Minutes of the 11th IAB Meeting which appointed and instructed the Committee in this regard.

2. Captain Poehlmann of the Office of Chief of Naval Operations stated that CIG 21 was instituted through ONI in the interests of the proposed SWNCC committee on Psychological Warfare. He explained that while the many technical and other intelligence agencies of the government had been able to gather together a mass of documents on aspects of their own interest immediately following hostilities, no such effort had yet been made on behalf of the various departmental offices charged with plans concerning Psychological Warfare. He proposed that remedial action must be taken, and that initially one or two four-man teams be selected and assigned the task of searching all known document repositories both in the United States and abroad for documents of interest for Psychological Warfare studies and investigation. He stated that it was realized that there could be no hope of a hundred per cent coverage but a thorough sampling and spot check could be made which should provide good results over a two-year period. He inquired of the membership their advice on the extent of information of this type which was available at home and abroad.

3. In reply to the request, the various members pointed out the enormity of the task, not only as a search, but for the further translation of material which was found. Mr. Bradford mentioned that the State Department had microfilms of the German Foreign Office Archives which comprised a huge store of documents. Much of this information could be weeded out on basis of antiquity or which were on other subjects, but nevertheless the scope of the proposed subject would entail a considerable amount of material. He said that he believed the Russians themselves had captured the files concerning Russian propaganda. Colonel St. Clair mentioned that the Goebbels propaganda records are now held by the French and negotiations are under way to move those available to the United States. Colonel Taylor said that the British turned over 400 tons of non-technical documents to the RAF and that the bulk of these have been neither catalogued nor exploited.

4. All the members expressed the belief that such a proposed project demanded a priority setup by the departments and at a high level, especially as the project involved operational information rather than intelligence for the national security. G-2 and State stressed the fact that while all documents could be made available their agencies could not furnish personnel for either search or exploitation.

5. It was further suggested that Captain Poehlmann must elaborate its requirements further before a reasonable plan could be drawn up.

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6. It was agreed that:

a. Captain Poehlmann would prepare the requirement for this material in outline form and would individually visit each agency, and the head Librarian of Congress in order to make an overall survey of the material which is believed to be available in Washington.

b. Further, departmental representatives would make inquiries from their overseas document teams to obtain estimates of material believed to be available abroad.

c. Thereafter, the Chairman would call another meeting of the Committee to further consider the positive action to be taken, and recommendations to be made to the IAB.

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